

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A composition for the treatment or prevention of alveolar destruction in a mammal comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of an RAR β antagonist having RAR specific modulating activity.

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2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α .
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR γ .

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4. The composition of claim 1 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α or RAR γ .
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises said RAR β antagonist in dissolved form.

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6. The composition of claim 5 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α .
7. The composition of claim 5 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR γ .

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8. The composition of claim 5 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α or RAR γ .

5 9. An aerosol for pulmonary delivery of a pharmaceutical composition, said pharmaceutical composition comprising an RAR β antagonist having specific RAR modulating activity.

10 10. The aerosol of claim 9 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α .

11. The aerosol of claim 9 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR γ .

15 12. The aerosol of claim 9 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α or RAR γ .

20 13. A method for the treatment or prevention of alveolar destruction in a mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an RAR β antagonist specific RAR modulating activity to said mammal.

25 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α .

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR γ .

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α or RAR γ .
17. The method of claim 13, wherein said composition is administered in the form of an inhalant.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α .
19. The method of claim 17 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR γ .
20. The method of claim 17 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α or RAR γ .
21. A method to increase the gas-exchange surface area of a mammalian lung in a mammal in need thereof comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an RAR β antagonist having specific RAR modulating activity to said mammal.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR α .
23. The method of claim 21 wherein said RAR β antagonist is not specific to RAR γ .

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said $RAR\beta$ antagonist is not specific to $RAR\alpha$ or $RAR\gamma$.

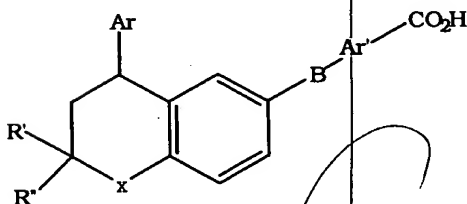
25. The method of claim 21, wherein said composition is administered in the form of an inhalant.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said $RAR\beta$ antagonist is not specific to $RAR\alpha$.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein said $RAR\beta$ antagonist is not specific to $RAR\gamma$.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein said $RAR\beta$ antagonist is not specific to $RAR\alpha$ or $RAR\gamma$.

29. The $RAR\beta$ antagonist of any of the foregoing claims, comprising the structural formula:



wherein

a) X is selected from the group consisting of CR_2 , O , S , and NR ;

b) R' and R'' are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and lower alkyl;

c) Ar and Ar' are each independently a single ring aryl moiety; and

d) B is selected from the group consisting of --
CR'CH--,
--CHCR'--, --COO--, --OOC--; --COHN--; --NHOC--;
--CSHN--; and --NHSC--.

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30. The RAR β antagonist of claim 29 wherein Ar
and Ar' are each independently selected from
the group consisting of substituted or
unsubstituted phenyl, furyl, thienyl and
pyridyl groups.

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